

SPECIAL VETERANS DAY SECTION

FORWARD MARCH

PRESENTED BY THE UNITED WAR VETERANS COUNCIL

CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I



11·11·18

NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE

FIFTH AVENUE
26-45TH STREETS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11
11:05AM - 3:30PM

TV/ONLINE
11AM - 2PM



uwvc.org/vetsday

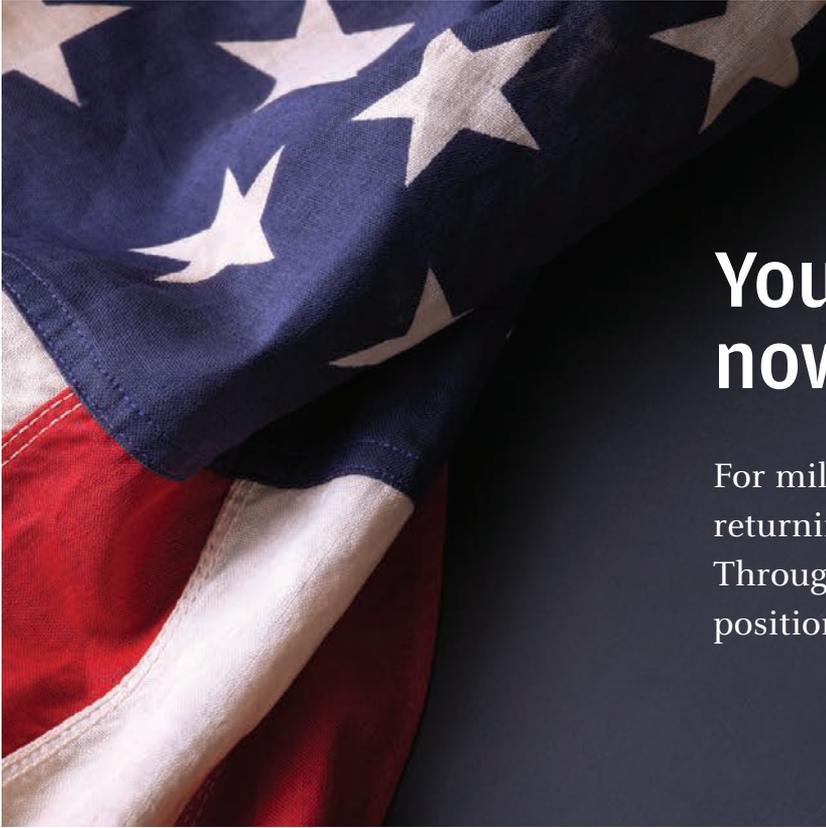


U.S. DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS QBE WELLS FARGO
VETERANS ADVANTAGE VERIZON U-HAUL T-MOBILE



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For military members, veterans and their families, returning to civilian life can be challenging. Through our programs and initiatives, we aim to position you for success in your post-service lives.

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initiatives that support veterans
and military families

1,000+

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at more than \$185M donated to
military families through
nonprofit partners

10,500

career certifications earned by
7,700 veterans and military spouses
through the Veteran Career
Transition Program

Statistics provided are from 2011 to present

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

jpmorganchase.com/veterans

THE 2018 NYC VETERANS DAY PARADE

The United War Veterans Council (UWVC) invites you to join us for the 2018 New York City Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 11. This year, the Parade will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the World War I.

The 2018 parade route will run north on Fifth Avenue from 26th to 45th Street, beginning at 11:05AM and concluding at approximately 3:30PM. The Parade will feature veterans of all eras, military members from all branches, floats, vintage vehicles, top marching bands, and more!

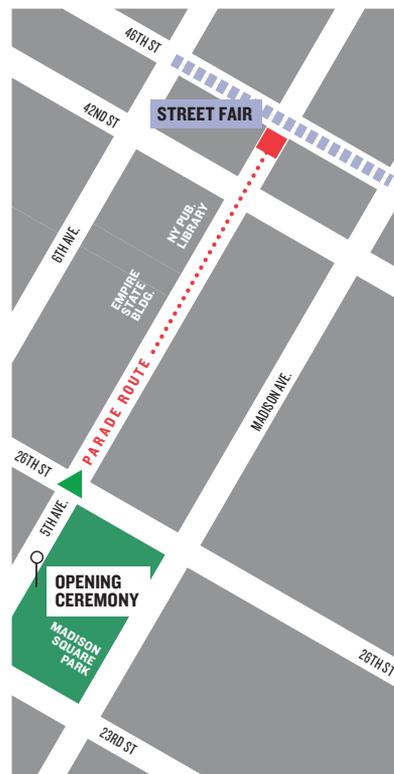
The Parade will be preceded by a wreath laying at the newly renovated Eternal Light memorial in Madison Square Park.

For those who cannot attend, the Parade will be broadcast live on PIX11 and streamed online from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., EST (uwvc.org/paradestream)

With the U.S. Army as this year's featured service, UWVC has named Medal of Honor Recipient and Army veteran Florent Groberg as Grand Marshal. Groberg will be joined by Honorary Grand Marshal General James McConville, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, as well as three Honorary Marshals: Team Red White and Blue founder Mike Erwin, local

hero and founder of Black Veterans for Social Justice Job Mashariki, and GORUCK founder Jason McCarthy.

We invite you to explore the pages of this Special Veterans Day Section to learn more!





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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Welcome to the 2018 edition of FORWARD MARCH, the United War Veterans Council's annual Veterans Day Parade publication.

We are excited to partner with the New York Daily News to bring this year's issue to the public. As always, our goal with FORWARD MARCH is to not only share information about the Parade and Veterans Day, but to shine a spotlight on the stories of our veteran community.

This year is the centennial of the end of World War I, an event that changed the world and shaped modern America. New York City was central to America's World War I experience, and we are proud to host America's largest Veterans Day event while commemorating the Armistice that ended the war.

Since that time, our service members have continued to answer our nations call in times of conflict, through today. American men and women have been called upon to step into harms way on behalf of our

republic. Regardless of the politics or policy behind any particular conflict or deployment, we owe these veterans a debt of gratitude, as fellow citizens.

So on this very special Veterans Day, I hope you will join us on Fifth Avenue to not only cheer for our veterans, but to demonstrate your commitment to ensuring that all our veterans receive the care and opportunities they have so rightfully earned!

Together forward!

Doug McGowan
Chairman, United War Veterans Council
U.S. Marine Corps Veteran



GREETINGS TO NYC'S VETERANS



And it will be an ongoing collaboration with New York City itself – the schools and businesses, faith and recreational centers, service providers and organizations – all marshaling their collective efforts to leverage the strengths and support the needs of the burgeoning population of approximately 500,000 veterans and military family members in New York City.

To all the service members, veterans and their families who live, work, or attend school here, there is simply no greater privilege than to serve the City of New York as your Commissioner.

Happy Veterans Day, America, and especially, Happy Veterans Day, New York City!

LORETTA SUTTON, MD
Brig General, US Army (Ret.)
Commissioner, NYC Dept. of Veterans Services

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ONLINE
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As the Department of Veterans' Services readies to celebrate its third Veterans Day as a fully-fledged stand-alone agency, it's worth mentioning that our story has been and continues to be, one of collaboration.

It's through collaboration this year – with our community partners and the rich landscape of veterans service organizations throughout the five boroughs – that we're excited to soon bring you VetConnectNYC, a service and access multiplying coordinated care network that will innovate the way service members, veterans, and their families access resources and care in New York City.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, November 11, 2018, marks the centennial of the end of active fighting during World War I, with the signing of the Armistice of Compiegne that brought an end to the conflict on land, sea and air, representing a critical victory for the Allies who stood in defense of the values of freedom and democracy that were under attack in Europe, among them were many courageous New Yorkers who answered the call to uphold the founding values of our nation with unparalleled dedication, valor and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, World War I was one of the bloodiest and costliest conflicts in human history, claiming 17 million lives between 1914 and 1918, including those of more than 116,000 United States troops; more than 500,000 New Yorkers served in the American Expeditionary Forces under General J. Pershing – fully ten percent of the United States troops; they fought with courage and determination, helping to secure the Allied victory by facing the enemy at the Aisne-Marine Offensive, the Somme Offensive, in the Argonne Forese, at the battle of Meuse-Argonne, and offensives breaking the Hindenburg Line; and

WHEREAS we solemnly remember the valor and sacrifices made by the 13,956 New Yorkers who died fighting for our country in World War I; we owe our deepest gratitude to the many thousands of New Yorkers who returned home wounded from the World War I battlefields, marked by the dawn of modern weaponry, and acknowledge that the injuries and scars of war -- both seen and unseen -- brought many challenges and difficulties to these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS the last of the surviving individuals who served in World War I are gone, we will forever look to the example set by those New Yorkers of heroism and self sacrifice -- a proud example that inspires us all and lives on in generations of their family members who followed them,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2018 as:

A DAY TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES MADE BY NEW YORK STATE AND NEW YORKERS IN WORLD WAR I

ANDREW CUOMO, Governor

(Excerpted) Download the full text at:
uwvc.org/2018nys-vetsdayproc

VETERANS DAY: ORIGINS

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, an Armistice was declared between the United States and its Allies and Germany, ending World War I, then known as "the Great War." (See p 15)

A year later, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first Armistice Day. On November 11, 1921, an unidentified American soldier killed in the war was buried at Arlington National Cemetery; Congress declared the day a federal holiday.

In 1926, Congress passed a resolution calling for the president to issue an annual proclamation marking Armistice Day, and 27 states had made November 11 a legal holiday. In 1938 Armistice Day was declared a legal federal holiday.

World War II (1941-45) saw more than 16 million Americans serve in the military; 5.7 million more served in the Korean War (1950-53). In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation renaming Armistice Day to "Veterans Day," honoring American veterans of all wars.

For a brief period, Veterans Day was set as the fourth Monday in October. In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a new law returning the observation of Veterans Day to November 11, where it has remained ever since.

This year marks the centennial of the Armistice that ended World War I, next year 2019 will mark the 100th observation of Veterans Day/Armistice Day. We invite you to join us in observing both these historical commemorations!

FORWARD MARCH 2018

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HISTORY[®] honors and salutes
our nation's **VETERANS** and **MILITARY FAMILIES**.
#HonorAVet



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PARTICIPATING GROUPS | NYC VETERANS DAY PARADE | 11/11/2018

The following groups are participating in this year's Parade.* This is not an order of march; please visit uwvc.org/vetsday just prior to the Parade for an updated list/order.

* As of press time

MOTORCYCLE ESCORT

NYPD Highway
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association
Legion of Elites
American Legion Riders Post 1302
American Legion Riders Post 1636
Rolling Thunder® Chapter 1, New York
Nam Knights of America
Motorcycle Club

EXECUTIVE DIVISION

Mayor Bill De Blasio
Mayor's Guest Veterans
Other NYC Elected Officials
New York City Public Advocate
Letitia James

HONORARY DIVISION

Grand Marshal Florent Groberg
Honorary Marshal Jason McCarthy
Honorary Marshal Job Mashariki

FLOATS/VEHICLES

FLOAT: 2018 NYC Veterans Day Parade
FLOAT: Aetna
FLOAT: American Airlines
FLOAT: American Legion
FLOAT: Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade
FLOAT: CHASE
FLOAT: Columbia University
FLOAT: CUNY
FLOAT: Ernst & Young/wVOWs
Gibbons Military Motors
FLOAT: Gold Star Families
FLOAT: Headstrong (sponsored by HISTORY)
FLOAT: Korean War Veterans M38A1 Jeep United States
FLOAT: Northwell Health
FLOAT: NY Daily News
FLOAT: Purple Heart (Sponsored by CHASE)
FLOAT: RIP Medical Debt
FLOAT: Salute to the U.S. Army Spirit of '76 Cadillac El Dorado
FLOAT: T-Mobile
FLOAT: UBS Veterans
FLOAT: UWVC Health & Wellness
FLOAT: Verizon salutes Blue Stars
FLOAT: Veterans Advantage
FLOAT: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 126
FLOAT: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 72

Wells Fargo Stagecoach
WWI Vintage Vehicles
WWII Vintage Vehicles
FLOAT: World War II Veterans
FLOAT: S Wounded Warrior Project 1, 2 & 3

U.S. ARMY

West Point Band
U.S. Military Academy (West Point) Cadets
U.S. Military Academy Corps of Cadets - Pipes and Drums
333rd Military Police Brigade
353rd Civil Affairs Command
369th Sustainment Brigade
77th Sustainment Brigade
78th Army Band
80th Training Command
ROTC - Fordham University
ROTC - St. John's University

U.S. MARINE CORPS

U.S. Marine Corps Marching Contingent

U.S. NAVY

USS Oak Hill
Naval Weapons Station Earle
Navy Operational Support Center New York City
Recruiting District New York

U.S. COAST GUARD

United States Coast Guard - Sector New York

U.S. AIR FORCE

United States Air Force Honor Guard
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst
313 Recruiting Squadron
U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachments 485, 490, and 560
U.S. Air Force Auxiliary - Civil Air Patrol

VETERANS + SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Polish National Alliance Lodge #30
USO of Metropolitan New York
Alpha Gamma Xi Military Sorority, Inc.
American Legion
American Legion - Coffey Wilson Post 688
American Legion - Post 135
American Legion - Post 694
American Legion NYC Police Post 0460
Bailey House Inc.
Be a Hero-Hire a Hero
Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Service, Veterans Medical Training & Career Development Program
Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.
Blinded Veterans Association, NYRG
Borden Avenue Veterans Residence
Disabled American Veterans (DAV) transport vans

Easterseals New York
Fencers Club
GallopNYC
Haitian American Veterans Association
Headstrong
Hope For The Warriors
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
Jericho Project
Korean War Veterans - Central Long Island - Chapter 64
Marines of New York
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Military Order of The Purple Heart Chapter #3
Misfit Veterans National
National Association of Black Military Women
Native American Women Warriors
Navy League, New York Council
New York Helmets to Hardhats
New York Hummer Squad
New York-Presbyterian Military Family Wellness Center
NY Skyliners Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps
NYC Veterans Alliance
Port Authority Veterans Association
SAGE
Sail Ahead
Samaritan Daytop Village
Serenity Stables: From Combat To Calm Inc
Services For The Underserved
Sgt. John Basilone Foundation
Sigma Alpha Gamma Military Fraternity Inc.
Team Red, White & Blue
UCLA Operation Mend
United Military Veterans of Kings County
USS America Carrier Veteran's Association, Inc.
USS Intrepid Former Crewmembers
Valor Village
Veteran Coalition of the Arts; School of Visual Arts
Veterans Action Group Buffalo Soldiers of America.Org
Veterans Club of Local Union #3 I.B.E.W.
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1838
Veterans on Wall Street
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 126
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 779
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 82 Nassau County
Vietnam Veterans of America, Michael J. Novosel Medal of Honor Chapter 542
Vietnam Veterans of America, Thomas P. Coughlin Memorial Chapter 72, Brooklyn
Wounded Warrior Project
COLLEGES/EDUCATION
Berkeley College
Columbia University, School of

General Studies
CUNY Central Office of Veteran Affairs
Farmingdale State College
Student Veterans of America
Felician University
Fordham Veterans Association
Lincoln Educational Services
LIU Brooklyn - Student Veterans Resource Center
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Monroe College - Student Veterans Of America
New York Institute of Technology - Student Veteran Organization
New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) - School of Management
The New School
NYU Military Alliance Community Center
NYU Veterans Future Lab
Pace University Student Veterans Association
St. John's University, Student Veterans Association
Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at NYU Langone Health
Student Veterans Organization of Manhattan College
SUNY Maritime College
Wagner College Seahawk Marching Band

ALLIED VETS GROUPS

French War Veterans
Huang Pu Veterans Association of Republic of China, East Coast, USA
Korean American Vietnam Veterans Associations of Greater New York
The Korean Women Veterans Association of Washington/Greater Korea Foundation
WWI Allies

NYC AGENCIES

Fire Department, City of New York
New York City Department of Corrections
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
NYC FireRiders Motorcycle Club
NYPD

NY STATE

Civil Service Employee Association
New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs
New York State Police
NYS Veterans Home at St. Albans
The Port Authority of NY & NJ Police Honor Guard

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Bronx Vet Center
James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Mt. Sinai - WTC Health Program

National Park Service - Manhattan Sites
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
United States Department of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - NJ Healthcare System PTSD Unit
United States Public Health Service

MILITARY FAMILIES

Long Island Blue Star Moms NY6
Moms of Military NY12 - Blue Star Mothers of America Inc.

JROTC/CADET

CBA Regimental Marching Band
Knickerbocker Greys Cadet Corps
U.S. Army - Hillside H.S.
U.S. Army - Morris H.S.
U.S. Army - South Lakes H.S.
U.S. Army - West Potomac H.S.
U.S. Navy - Graphics Campus
U.S. Navy - North Rockland Navy
U.S. Navy - William Allen H.S.
U.S. Navy - William Floyd H.S.
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps
U.S. Air Force - Aviation H.S.
U.S. Air Force - Bowne H.S.
U.S. Air Force - Mount Olive H.S.
U.S. Air Force - Susan E. Wagner H.S.

CIVIC

Boy Scouts of America - Troop 194
Boy Scouts of America - Troop 382
Boy Scouts of America - Troop and Pack 627
Boy Scouts of America - Theodore Roosevelt Troop 176
Boy Scouts of America - Pack/Troop 800
Civil War Re-Enactors - New York State Veteran Volunteers - 62nd Regiment
Crescent Shrine Mini Car Unit
Daughters of the American Revolution
Falun Gong
French American Academy of New Jersey
The Girl Scouts of Greater New York
Greater New York Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists
Adventist Youth Ministries/National Service Organization
Ground Zero Volunteers Flag
Linden Lightbearers Youth Group
Lycée Francaise
Miss American Nation/Miss Culture Galaxy Pageants
N.E.C./B.S.S.I Pathfinders
Sons of the American Revolution
Union League Club
Setalcott Indian nation youth

group
Spirit of '45
The Long Island Living History Association
The United States Daughters of 1812, State of New York Society
US 79th Infantry Division Living History Group
USA Cheerleaders & USA Junior Cheerleaders
The Victory Belles of The National WWII Museum

YOUTH BANDS

Valley Forge Military Academy & College
The Golden Lions Marching Band*
The Grayslake North Marching Knights*
The Marching Spoofohounds*
The Milton H.S. Band*
The Seaman H.S. Marching Vikes*
The World Famous Towson University Marching Band*

* = NYC Group Tours band

BUSINESSES/SPONSORS

Aetna
American Airlines - Veteran Military Employee Business Resource Group
AT&T Veterans
Comcast/NbcUniversal Veterans Network
Con Ed
Cushman & Wakefield
DeVry College of New York
Empire BlueCross BlueShield
an Anthem Company
Ernst & Young
First Data
GoRuck
HBO
JetBlue Vets in Blue
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
KPMG Veterans Network
Liberty Coca-Cola
Northwell Health
NY Daily News
NYU Langone Health
RBC Capital Markets
RIP Medical Debt
ROADWAY-Veteran Movers NYC
Siemens
T-Mobile USA
The Walt Disney Company
Turner Construction Company
U-Haul International
UBS Financial Services Inc.
Verizon
Veterans Advantage PBC
Wells Fargo
Willis Towers Watson

MEET WHAT'S NEXT

“Our veterans who are working and thriving here are bringing the skill sets that will take this firm to the next level.

—Bruce Mosler (R), Chairman, Global Brokerage, New York and Chairman of Veterans Initiative

“In the military, we understand teamwork, loyalty and execution, qualities that are essential to our clients and this firm.”

—Douglas Jones (L), Associate, Agency Leasing, Dallas

Bruce Mosler and Douglas Jones are a force for action in our Veterans Initiative, which is shaping the next generation of leadership in our firm and our country. With 3.5 billion square feet under management, 400 offices in 70 countries, 2017 revenues of \$6.9 billion and 48,000 hardworking innovators, this is where the power of real estate is unleashed on behalf of the world's top owners and occupiers. Explore what's next at cushmanwakefield.com.



HONORARY PARADE LEADERSHIP

FLORENT GROBERG

GRAND MARSHAL
U.S. ARMY VETERAN, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT (AFGHANISTAN)



We are proud to welcome Captain Florent Groberg, U.S. Army (Retired) as the Grand Marshal of the 2018 New York City Veterans Day Parade.

Born in France, Groberg became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2001 and joined the Army in 2008. He received the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military honor, for heroic acts during his service in Afghanistan in 2012.

Groberg tackled a suicide bomber targeting his formation, causing both the initial attacker and a second bomber to prematurely detonate their devices. His quick thinking and courage saved numerous lives; he himself was severely wounded. Medically retired in 2015, Groberg is an active advocate for veterans and their needs.

Captain Groberg's heroic record of service, and his ties to one of our major World War I allies, make him an ideal representative for our veterans on this WWI Centennial parade.

[Read more about Capt. Groberg on p. 13](#)

GENERAL JAMES McCONVILLE

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL
U.S. ARMY VICE CHIEF OF STAFF



General James C. McConville, the 36th Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, represents our Featured Service Branch for the 2018 New York City Veterans Day Parade.

General McConville is a native of Quincy, MA, and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. He holds a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and was a National Security Fellow at Harvard University in 2002.

McConville's career includes a wide range of commands, including deployments for both Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as numerous staff leadership assignments.

He is a senior Army aviator qualified in the AH-64D Longbow Apache, OH-58 Kiowa Warrior, AH-6, AH-1 Cobra and other aircrafts. McConville and his wife, Maria, have three children serving in the military.

[Read about our Featured Service on p. 23](#)

MIKE ERWIN

HONORARY MARSHAL
U.S. ARMY VETERAN



Mike Erwin, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, is the founder of Team RWB (Red, White and Blue) and serves as a member of its

Board of Directors.

Erwin served on active duty for thirteen years, including three deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He is currently serves as the President of The Positivity Project and CEO of The Character & Leadership Center.

He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2002 and earned his Master's degree in Psychology & Leadership from the University of Michigan in 2011. He is the co-author of the book entitled, Lead Yourself First: Inspiring Leadership Through Solitude.

Erwin lives in Pinehurst, North Carolina, with his wife and four children.

[Read more about LtCol Erwin on p. 17](#)

JOB MASHARIKI

HONORARY MARSHAL
U.S. ARMY VETERAN



Job Mashariki has served New York City veterans for four decades, and is one of our most respected community leaders.

A New York native, Mashariki founded Black Veterans for Social Justice in 1979 in Brooklyn with to provide assistance to service members after the Vietnam War. Many returning veterans faced indifference or even hostility, which was compounded by lack of care, services and employment. These issues were particularly pronounced in minority neighborhoods throughout New York City.

In response, Mashariki rallied local veterans to help meet these needs. Today, BVSJ has evolved into a Brooklyn fixture and provides a wide range of programs and services to local veterans, including housing, employment, food, security and medical care.

[Read more about Mr. Mashariki on p. 21](#)

JASON MCCARTHY

HONORARY MARSHAL
U.S. ARMY VETERAN



Jason McCarthy is the Founder and CEO of GORUCK, which manufactures gear in the USA and executes over 1000 endurance events per year led by decorated combat Veterans of Special Operations.

McCarthy is a 2006 Graduate of the Special Forces Qualification Course and recipient of a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device earned while serving on ODA 042 during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007.

McCarthy holds a B.A. in Economics from Emory University in Atlanta, and an MBA from Georgetown University in 2011, where he was a John F. Connelly Scholar.

Jason is a board member of the Green Beret Foundation and lives in Atlantic Beach, Florida with his wife Emily, their three kids, and celebrity rock star dog, Monster.

[Read more about Mr. McCarthy on p. 25](#)

HONORARY COMMITTEE

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Chairman, UWVC

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U.S. Army Veteran, Medal of Honor Recipient

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HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL
Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

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U.S. Army Veteran; Founder of Team RWB

JOB MASHARIKI - HONORARY MARSHAL
U.S. Army Veteran; Founder of Black Veterans for Social Justice

JASON MCCARTHY - HONORARY MARSHAL
U.S. Army Veteran; Founder of GORUCK

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U.S. Army Veteran, Medal of Honor Recipient

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BRUCE MOSLER
Chairman, Global Brokerage
Cushman & Wakefield

BRIGADIER GENERAL LOREE SUTTON, RET.
Commissioner, NYC Dept of Veterans' Services

**Wounded Warrior Project
helps me manage my PTSD.**

I AM LIVING PROOF

**WOUNDED WARRIOR
TANIKI RICHARD**

HELP MAKE AN IMPACT AT iamlivingproofwwp.org

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United War Veterans Council (UWVC) team members, partners and veterans pose in front of the iconic USS Intrepid (PHOTO:UWVC)

HONORING AND SERVING OUR VETERANS

The United War Veterans Council (UWVC) builds on its past to meet the challenges of the present - and the future

Our veterans community -- both in New York and across America -- continues to evolve with each generation. At times, it seems as if it is changing daily, as today's technology-driven world advances and changes at a breakneck pace.

However, throughout all the change, certain needs remain constant. Veterans must fight to ensure that their stories and issues remain in the public awareness. And, despite (or perhaps because of) the virtual connectivity provided by new technologies and networks, direct, in-person interactions and gatherings are more important forever.

The United War Veterans Council and its predecessors have been doing both of these things for centuries. The organization traces its lineage back to veterans of the Spanish American War (1898); its roots go back even farther, to the Decoration Day (Memorial Day) ceremonies of the post-Civil War period and even the Evacuation Day commemorations celebrating the return of the U.S. Army to New York at the end of the American Revolution.

The current organization was revived by Vietnam Veterans during the lowest ebb point of the veterans community in the late 1970s and early 1980s. During this period, the New York City Veterans Day Parade had dwindled to the point of extinction: one year, the parade consisted of a handful of veterans, carrying a drum and a flag up the street.

These Vietnam Veterans realized that the Parade was more than a celebration or a march up the street, it was a rally point for veterans to come together, and an opportunity for rebuild -- and demonstrate -- the community's diversity and strength.

Today, the New York City Veterans Day Parade is the largest event of its kind in the nation. Drawing tens of thousands of participants and hundreds of thousands of viewers (in person, on TV and online), it provides an opportunity to veterans to gather and connect, and for organizations to mobilize and motivate their membership. It also provides a very visible demonstration and reminder to both the public and to our elected leaders of the size and scope of our community.

In the last year and a half, the

UWVC has built on the platform of the Parade to launch and grow its Health and Wellness programs. Direct, personal experiences and interactions are again the focus, with an emphasis on holistic approaches to healing and therapy. These activities have resulted in over 1,000 interactions to date (see p. 19 to learn more.)

The UWVC also plays an important role in bridging gaps: between generations of veterans; between the public and the military/veteran community; between elected leaders and their veteran constituents; and between businesses and the veterans they seek to hire or help.

Over the past few years, a new generation of veterans has taken the reins of leadership. The Vietnam Veterans who laid the foundation have stepped back into advisory roles, replaced on the front lines by veterans of modern conflicts rang-

ing from Panama to Desert Storm to Iraq, Afghanistan and Post-9/11 operations. These younger veterans bring new skills and perspectives that are helping drive the organization forward.

In the years to come, the UWVC will continue to evolve, while maintaining its links to its heritage and its foundational values. This year's Parade includes a number of changes, reflecting the UWVC's willingness to re-examine and re-define even the most well-established approaches in the pursuit of ongoing success and sustainability.

Next year will mark the Centennial of Veterans Day itself (100 years since the first observation of the anniversary of the World War I Armistice). The UWVC is already building toward this momentous event; we invite you to join us in making history -- and laying a foundation for the future!

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ALL AMERICAN

Grand Marshal and Medal of Honor Recipient Florent Groberg epitomizes the spirit of American service

A century ago, two million American service members were deployed overseas, fighting alongside the Allied coalition to bring an end to World War I. The vast majority of these troops were engaged in combat in France, the birth country of this year's New York City Veterans Day Parade's Grand Marshal.

Florent Groberg was born in Poissy France in 1983, on May 8, 1983. Appropriately enough, his birthday fell on the anniversary of another landmark day in the long history of Franco-American friendship: VE Day - the day the Allies defeated Germany in World War II.

Groberg became a naturalized American citizen in 2001. He attended the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) and competed in varsity track and cross country. In May 2006, Groberg graduated from UMD with a bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice.

After entering the Army in July 2008, Groberg received his commission as an infantry officer. His first command assignment was with the

4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo., as a platoon leader.

He first deployed to Afghanistan in November 2009, and went back again in 2012. It was during this second deployment that he carried out the acts that earned him the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military honor.

While commanding the personal security detachment for the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Groberg identified a suicide bomber targeting his formation and physically tackled the individual, causing both the initial attacker and a second bomber to prematurely detonate their devices.

Groberg's quick thinking and courage saved many lives, including those of senior U.S. and allied Afghan commanders. He himself was severely wounded in the action. Medically retired in 2015, Groberg remains an active advocate for veterans and their needs.

On November 11, Groberg will lead the nation's largest Veterans Day parade up Fifth Avenue, accompanied by his fiancée, Carter Zarin. When named Grand Marshal, Groberg reflected, "Just 100 years ago, more than 41 million lives were lost during



Then-Lieutenant Florent Groberg in Afghanistan in 2012 (PHOTO: SSGT Alexis Ramos)

World War One. France, one of our greatest allies, lost well over a million citizens. As a naturalized United States citizen born in France, I truly appreciate 'The American Dream', and understand the importance and value of the bonds we share with our allies."

Like so many other Medal of Honor recipients, Groberg deflects the acco-

lades sent his way, preferring instead to credit his comrades, saying "Nothing can be accomplished without teamwork. I wouldn't be here without the incredible acts of my team."

His attitude epitomizes America's military men and women at their very best. "The proudest thing I have ever done in my life is to wear this uniform and serve my country."

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U.S. troops attack at Cantigny, France, in June 1918, America's first independent action of World War I (National Archives)

WORLD WAR I - A CENTURY LATER

America and the war that shaped the modern world

ON NOVEMBER 11, 1918, at precisely 11:00AM, the Armistice that ended World War I took hold. Since entering the war in 1917, millions of Americans had served overseas and supported the nation's war effort at home. Their contributions helped win the war and shaped both America and the world for generations.

For decades, tensions had been growing between the nations of Europe. In the summer of 1914, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary was assassinated, setting off a sequence of events that eventually drew most of Europe into full-scale war. The Central Powers (led by Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire) fought the Allies (led by France, Great Britain and Russia) as the conflict spread from Europe to the Middle East and then to other parts of the world.

The United States remained neutral at the beginning of the war. Individual Americans supported one side or the other, although the majority were sympathetic to the Allies. Many contributed to relief efforts; others volunteered as ambulance

drivers or nurses, or even as pilots and soldiers. However, most agreed with President Woodrow Wilson's commitment to keeping the U.S. out of the fighting.

Overseas, the war continued in 1915 and 1916. On the Western Front (France and Belgium) the fighting bogged down into trench warfare, with combatants living and dying below ground in squalid, filthy conditions. Most of the other battlefronts also remained deadlocked. Armies threw millions of men at each other, and technological advances provided new ways of inflicting death and damage, but neither side was able to gain the upper hand. Some Americans felt that their country had a duty to help stop the slaughter, but most believed that the pointless carnage proved that the U.S. had been right to stay out of the war.

However, in early 1917, a series of events changed American attitudes. Earlier in the war, Germany had halted its submarines from sinking civilian and neutral ships, due largely to U.S. protests. In February 1917 it resumed unrestricted submarine warfare. Shortly afterward,

an intercepted German telegram revealed a plan offering Mexico territory it had lost to the U.S. during the Mexican-American War (1846-48) in exchange for its support.

These events finally brought the U.S. into the war on the side of the Allies on April 6, 1917. In the months that followed, nearly five million Americans of all backgrounds entered military service. The U.S. government took an active role in mobilizing American industry and society in support of the war effort. In France, General John "Black Jack" Pershing organized millions of incoming American troops into an effective fighting force. Meanwhile, German successes on other battlefronts allowed them to focus their efforts on the Western Front.

In the spring of 1918, the Germans launched a major series of attacks, finally breaking the stalemate and advancing all along the Western Front. U.S. forces were thrown into action, and helped turn back the German assault. Over the summer and into the fall of 1918, the Americans played a leading role as the Allies finally pushed back the Germans on the Western Front. The

Allies also advanced on other battlefronts. One by one, the Central Powers surrendered, until Germany stood alone. Finally, on the morning of November 11, 1918, Germany signed an armistice that brought the fighting to an end.

At least 8.5 million soldiers had been killed and over 20 million wounded. In America's relatively brief involvement, it suffered over 116,000 military deaths and 200,000 wounded. In addition, more than seven million civilians died worldwide, and countless others had been injured, starved, or made homeless. On top of this, a global influenza (flu) pandemic in 1918 - 1919 struck down tens of millions more.

In 1919, the nations of the world came together in Paris to negotiate the post-war peace treaties. People around the globe hoped that the peace conference would lead to a new era of justice and cooperation. Unfortunately, the resulting Treaty of Versailles and its related agreements failed to capture this spirit, and in fact planted the seeds of World War II and other future conflicts.

World War I changed the world. It ended the era of monarchies and set in motion the fall of colonial empires. It introduced mass industrial warfare and gave rise to over a century of conflict, including a second global war that was the largest in human history.

Yet its legacy extended beyond destruction. The war saw the introduction of large scale humanitarian efforts. It led to new technologies that had widespread peacetime benefits. Subjugated peoples around the world were emboldened to pursue self-government. International organizations arose that formed the model for today's institutions.

The United States initially retreated from international politics shortly after the war. However, World War I represented a turning point in its relationship with the world. It emerged as the undisputed leader in economic production, and became the center of global finance.

The war also transformed American society. The role of government in daily life expanded. Women and minority groups staked their claim to their fair share of rights and opportunities. The assimilation of millions of immigrants was greatly accelerated.

As the U.S. commemorates its World War I centennial, the war's impact continues to be felt, from the highest levels of international politics to the countless local street corners, parks and cemeteries that host memorials bearing witness to the service and sacrifice of the America's World War I generation.

Courtesy U.S. WWI Centennial Commission

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EAGLE NATION

Honorary Marshal Mike Erwin's Team RWB brings veterans together with their communities.

Serving in combat zones inspired U.S. Army veteran Mike Erwin to live his life with a "sense of urgency" to make a positive difference in the world. Driven by this motivation, in 2010, Erwin founded Team RWB (for Red, White and Blue) to enrich the lives America's veterans by connecting them to their communities through physical and social activity.

Unlike many traditional veteran organizations, Team RWB actively engages both veterans and non-veterans, as well as active duty service members, bridging the gap between those who have military experience and the broader public. Today, Team RWB has over 140,000 members (called "Eagles") and more than 200 chapters across the country.

Team RWB focuses on creating frequent opportunities for team members to connect through fitness, sports, and recreation to improve physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. These activities create authentic connections between people -- genuine, quality, supportive relationships that generate mutual trust and account-



Mike Erwin (third from right) and Team RWB members help carry the flag across America in the Old Glory relay (PHOTO: VA.gov)

ability. These relationships result in improvements in teammates' sense of belonging, purpose, and community engagement.

These activities and relationships engage members in meaningful team and community-based experiences such as leadership and service to oth-

ers that renew self-identity and purpose in life.

Team RWB's approach can have a profound impact on the lives of veterans. One member reflects, "Team RWB has literally saved my life. I have struggled with depression at times and went to a very dark place

where I didn't think I was going to climb out of. Team RWB reached out to me, they grabbed my hands and helped pull me out of the pit. Without my Team RWB family, I don't believe I would be here today. I will forever be grateful for Team RWB."

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Together we'll go far





Veterans ruck along the beach during a UWVC Health & Wellness activity (PHOTO: UWVC)

HEALTH & WELLNESS

UWVC's holistic approach to helping veterans heal and transition

For years, the United War Veterans Council has recognized the importance of bringing veterans together. Events like the NYC Veterans Day Parade provide an opportunity to not only to celebrate service, but allow veterans to interact with each other in a healing and constructive way.

In 2017, the UWVC took the next step in developing these approaches, and launched a formal Health and Wellness program for veterans. This program, led personally by Executive Director Mark Otto, takes a holistic approach to helping veterans heal and transition through group activities and experiences.

Otto, a Marine Corps veteran of the Panama Invasion and Desert Storm, experienced first hand the power of such activities when he found that a local equine therapy program helped him cope with his own PTSD issues.

"I started going every week for

about six months, doing it in tandem with traditional therapy through the VA," Otto said. "It was an excellent way to complement it. You learn a lot about yourself."

Building off that initial nucleus of an idea, Otto set about to build a full suite of activities, supported by a network of partners, to help veterans explore non-pharmaceutical options to treat their mental health and stress issues. Since these issues can be exacerbated by the pressures of an urban environment, Otto specifically sought out opportunities to get veterans out of New York City, and into calmer and more reflective settings in New Jersey and Long Island.

To find veterans in need of such therapy, the UWVC turned to a longtime partner: **Samaritan Daytop Village**, a respected provider of substance abuse rehabilitation. For over a decade, UWVC worked with this organization's Manhattan and Queens veterans programs, providing volunteer opportunities and, in

some cases, employment, as part of these veterans' journey toward a new life. UWVC's new initiative was an ideal way to expand this relationship.

Today, the UWVC's Health and Wellness program offers a range of activities:

EQUINE THERAPY: In partnership with **Serenity Stables: From Combat to Calm**. Interactions with horses help veterans cope with mental issues by increasing feelings of calm and empathy.



SAILING: Via **SailAhead**, a Long Island-based organization founded by two French-American teens who wanted to give back to those who had served. Veterans work together to overcome challenges by harnessing the elemental power of the sea.

ART THERAPY: At **Ani Art Academy**, which enable veterans to safely expressing complex feelings and issues through creative works.

RUCKING: Military-style marching/hiking with weighted backpacks donated by **GORUCK**, which provides fitness and mental health benefits.

Other activities include assisted/unassisted sports, camping, fishing and educational visits to museums and memorials, integrating with the UWVC's Legacy and Education efforts.

Most of these activities take place in the Navesink River area of Monmouth County, New Jersey. The community has embraced UWVC's efforts and the visiting veterans it brings to the area. In particular, local restaurants have been extraordinarily generous. UWVC's weekly excursions can include a visit to **Five Guys** in Shrewsbury, **Umberto's Pizzeria** in Fair Haven and **Texas Roadhouse** in Holmdel. On special occasions, the veterans have lunch at the **Jon Bon Jovi Foundation Soul Kitchen**, run by the musician's parents (both retired Marines).

To date, UWVC's health and wellness programming has resulted in over 1,000 therapeutic interactions for veterans. Its goal is to carefully expand its impact with these programs, to ensure that every veteran it touches has the same quality of experience.

To learn how you can help UWVC treat veterans through its health and wellness programming, please visit uwvc.org.

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FIGHTING FOR VETERANS IN NEED

Honorary Marshal Job Mashariki's lifelong commitment to underserved veterans and communities

When U.S. servicemen came home from Vietnam, they found that they were often met with indifference, if not outright hostility, in a nation deeply divided over the war. In the years that followed, it seemed that people simply wanted to put the war behind them.

Many Vietnam veterans struggled with physical and mental health issues; these issues were exacerbated by a weak economy and job market. These problems were particularly pronounced in minority communities, including African-American neighborhoods in Brooklyn, New York.

In response to this need, Army veteran Job Mashariki joined with other Brooklyn veterans to form Black Veterans for Social Justice in 1979. Founded during a period where supporting veterans was neither popular nor fashionable, BSVJ has been "in the trenches" for forty years, helping provide veterans with housing, employment, food, security and medical care.

In recent years, BSVJ has redoubled its efforts to meet the needs of a new generation of veterans while



Job Mashariki (in yellow shirt) alongside community allies at BSVJ's Memorial Day Parade in Bed-Stuy (PHOTO: UWVC)

deepening its relationship with the surrounding community. In addition to providing services, BSVJ now organizes an annual Memorial Day Parade in its home neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant, which draws a wide range of community organizations including schools and youth groups as well as the local police precinct.

Broader community engagement is nothing new to Mashariki. For years, has been involved with numerous

other organizations, including the Fort Greene Senior Citizens' Council, and the National Association of Black Veterans, and also with the group that established the Institution of Higher Learning at Brooklyn's Medgar Evers College

These days, Mashariki is retired as president of BSVJ and now spends his time as a devoted father and husband. However, he is still committed to fighting for the rights and opportu-

nities of veterans in need.

"When I returned home from service, veterans service benefits were next to nothing or obsolete, a problem that was especially pronounced in communities of color," says Mashariki. "We're moving in the right direction, but there's work still to do - I believe every veteran should be afforded housing for their family, gainful employment, respect and love."

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OUR FEATURED SERVICE: THE U.S. ARMY



A U.S. soldier reads the names of his fallen WWI predecessors at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France (PHOTO: U.S. Army)

1918 TO 2018: THE ARMY AND WORLD WAR I

Honoring a legacy of bravery and sacrifice

This fall, U.S. and French service members and civilians joined together throughout Northern France to honor the bravery and sacrifices of the American Expeditionary Forces who liberated the area a century ago.

More than 1.25 million Americans deployed to France to join the Allies during the Great War. These soldiers tipped the balance in favor of the Allies in battles such as the Second Battle of the Marne, Saint-Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne.

While time has passed, the significance of their actions has not diminished -- especially for today's soldiers who proudly wear their unit insignia.

Maj. Gen. A.C. Roper, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Reserve, traveled to France with other soldiers to walk those historic battlefields and partake in WWI commemorations.

"World War I helped shape how we are organized, how we fight, and the technologies we use," said Roper. "World War I was our first introduction to the modern battlefield which included tanks, motor vehicles, aircraft, long range artillery,

and machine guns."

"We had some hard lessons to learn -- and we adapted," said Roper. "We became more agile and those lessons we learned continue to benefit us today. We are an Army on the move. We're building readiness, we're building a greater level of lethality -- and we can trace our roots right back here to WWI."

By the time America entered the world's first global war, there were already 18 million dead, 23 million maimed, and six million missing. The war was at a stalemate and the newly formed American Expeditionary Forces were still untested.

Their will and ability were proven during the battle for Saint-Mihiel. The unexpected American attack was a stunning victory and set the stage for the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the last great battle of the war. That offensive is still the largest in U.S. military history, covering the entire Western Front with 1.2 million U.S. service members. It lasted 47 days and was our nation's second deadliest battle.

"Our Soldiers carried a heavy load, but they were brave and steadfast," said Roper. "They knew not everyone would make it home, but

the cause for freedom and liberty was so important that they were willing to sacrifice it all."

In total, American forces suffered 204,002 wounded -- and 53,402 killed. That sacrifice and heroism a century ago is still deeply appreciated by the French today.

"They know that their liberty and their freedom came with a heavy cost -- and a part of that cost was American bloodshed," said Roper. "When you talk to the town's people, they really appreciate the sacrifice of the American Soldier. They have a sincere appreciation because they have not forgotten what happened here a hundred years ago."

Whether a hundred years ago or today, time has not changed our ability to overcoming any challenge, said Roper.

"It still comes down to the American Soldier; the bravery, the commitment and the selfless service has not changed," said Roper. "Everything else can change, but we still equip a Soldier and send them to combat with great leadership -- and they always accomplish the mission."

Adapted from an article by Sgt. 1st Class Corey Beal • Army.mil;

WINNING THE RIGHT WAY

Teaching Ethics in the Army

Earlier this year, the US. Army Vice Chief of Staff spoke on ethics in the Army during the annual International Society for Military Ethics Symposium, July 30.

Instilling Army values and ethics across the force begins with developing ethically-sound Soldiers early on, such as during Basic and Advanced Individual Training, said Gen. James C. McConville, who is representing the Army at this year's NYC Veterans Day Parade.

McConville cited the Army's "Not in My Squad" program as one important tool for helping to develop strong Army values and ethics among Soldiers. As part of the Not in My Squad program, it is squad leaders who are charged with taking the lead in training their Soldiers, instilling discipline, and ensuring Soldiers understand Army values so they can accomplish their missions ethically, effectively and efficiently.



(PHOTO: U.S. Army)

Professional conduct must be practiced at all times, both at home and while operating overseas. There, McConville said, it's important that during extended operations Soldiers don't forget their training and lose sight of the Army's ethical and moral standards.

The Army also recently announced a new holistic health and fitness program for Soldiers that includes a focus on mental health. The general said resilience, physical and mental fitness will be key to instilling morals early in Soldiers' careers.

Many specialized units are also putting Soldiers through ethical situations before selecting them, McConville said, to make sure their minds are in the right place.

"Winning's not only defeating the enemy," McConville said. "It's defeating the enemy the right way."

Adapted from an article by Joe Lacdan, Army News Service



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BUILDING BETTER AMERICANS

Honorary Marshal Jason McCarthy's GORUCK Challenges motivate, educate, and build bridges and bonds

Following the events of September 11, 2001, Jason McCarthy felt inspired to quit his finance job and join the U.S. Army, signing up for the Special Forces Qualification Course in 2003. Following his completion of the program in 2006, McCarthy served in the Army as a communications sergeant, with deployments to Iraq, West Africa, and Europe until 2008.

During his deployment in West Africa, McCarthy made rucksacks for his Foreign Service diplomat wife Emily and other Americans working at the Embassy. She encouraged him to continue making rucksacks; he took her advice, left the Special Forces, and opened GORUCK, a company dedicated to making military-inspired backpacks and gear.

GORUCK gear is particularly designed for the sport of rucking, in which individuals carry weighted packs while hiking in both urban and rustic settings. With its military roots, low barrier to entry (any healthy person can participate) and opportunity for camaraderie and team-building, rucking has been growing in popular-

ity among both veterans and civilians alike.

McCarthy then started the GORUCK Challenge, a Special Forces training program modified for civilians looking for a change in their workout routines and an opportunity to develop leadership and teamwork skills. The Challenge was well-received and gained a following; its continued success and support from the Green Beret Foundation made GORUCK a success.

Today, with over 1,000 events each year, GORUCK is not only a business, but a movement. In addition to providing opportunities for physical fitness and self-improvement, many GORUCK events include an educational component, in which participants learn about veteran and military and veteran history while completing the challenge at hand.

Most of all, GORUCK is about bringing people together and developing friendships through the crucible of shared experiences. Veterans, service members and civilians strive, suffer and succeed together, and emerge with a greater appreciation for not only their own capabilities, but



GoRuck's Challenge events recreate Special Forces training (PHOTO: GoRuck.com)

for their new teammates and friends.

At its core, GORUCK reflects one veteran's passion to find a way to make an impact: initially motivated by response to tragedy, further inculcated by military service, and refined and focused by his own personal jour-

ney of transition and discovery.

In Jason's words: "Yes, we build gear. Yes, we lead events, build teams and strengthen communities. But only because if we didn't, we'd have to find some other way to change the world, one day at a time."



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Genevieve and Lucille Baker, just after joining the Coast Guard in 1918 (PHOTO: Natl Archives)

COAST GUARD PIONEERS

Brooklyn Twins were first women to join, in WWI

Women have helped keep America's shores safe and secure since colonial times. Many served as lighthouse keepers during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These women not only minded the lamps that lit the shoreline for passing ships, but ventured out onto stormy waters in small boats to rescue countless souls from drowning.

The modern Coast Guard was created in 1915 with the consolidation of the Revenue Cutter Service and the Life Saving Service. The new service operated under the Treasury Department in peacetime, and would come under the Navy upon a U.S. declaration of war.

Two years later, in April 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and the Coast Guard was mobilized for military action. Since the fighting in Europe was largely on land, the Army receiving priority for manpower. To meet its needs, the Navy found a legal loophole in the recruiting laws and began enlisting women to fill non-combat roles.

The navy's policy was extended to the Coast Guard, and in April 1918 Genevieve and Lucille Baker, twin sisters from Brooklyn, transferred from the Naval Reserve into the Coast Guard. Along with Myrtle Hazard, who was the first to take the oath of enlistment, the Baker sisters blazed a trail for future generations of women in the Coast Guard.

These women, along with the thousands of others who served in the Navy, Marines and the Army in World War I led the way for women in the military. Tens of thousands of others contributed on the homefront, filling in male-dominated jobs a full generation before World War II's Rosie ever touched a rivet.

Their service played a critical role in advancing equality for women in the United States, including voting rights. In August of 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, finally giving all American women the right to vote. This victory, decades in the making, was pushed across the finish line by the service and sacrifice of the women of America's World War I generation.

THE BLACK SWALLOW OF DEATH

Trailblazing WWI fighter pilot is buried in Queens

In the green grass of Flushing Cemetery in Queens, there sits a marker over the grave of America's first black combat Aviator. Eugene Jacques Bullard was the only African-American pilot to fly in World War I, yet his story is all but forgotten by his countrymen.

Bullard was born in Georgia in 1894. To escape the a systemic racism of the time, and to seek out a life of adventure, he left home at the age of 11 to travel the world. By 1913, he was living in France and making a living as a boxer.

When World War I began in the summer of 1914, Bullard volunteered to fight for his adopted country. Like many other Americans (including fellow New Yorker and poet Alan Seeger) Bullard joined the French Foreign Legion, where he rose to the rank of corporal. Bullard saw heavy combat, and received the Croix de Guerre and other French decorations for his service.

While recuperating in the hospital from wounds received at the Battle of Verdun, Bullard volunteered and was accepted for flight training. After completing training, he joined 200 other Americans who flew in the Lafayette Flying Corps, and flew his first combat mission on August 27, 1917. Unfortunately, a disagreement with a French officer led to Bullard's removal from flight status in November 1917, and he returned to his infantry regiment. He is nonetheless credited with shooting down one German aircraft, making him the first African American pilot to notch a victory in aerial combat.

After the war, Bullard stayed in France. In World War II, when Germany again invaded France, Bullard once more joined the French Army. He was seriously wounded by artillery fire, but escaped captivity and made his way to the New York City,



where he supported the war effort by participating in war bond drives.

Bullard remained in New York after the war, where he lived quietly, his exploits largely unknown to the American public. In France, however, he remained a national hero. In 1954, he was one of a select group of veterans chosen to light the "Eternal Flame" at France's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, under the Arc de Triomphe. In 1959, he was awarded the rank of Knight of the Legion of Honor by the grateful people of France.

Upon Bullard's death in October, 1961, he was buried with full military honors in his Foreign Legion uniform. Three decades later, in 1994, the Secretary of the Air Force posthumously appointed Bullard a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force, formally acknowledging Bullard's contributions to American combat aviation, and bringing him home into the Air Force family.

Adapted from text from the U.S. Air Force

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Two time Medal of Honor Recipient*

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Madison Square Park's new entry plaza featuring the Eternal Light memorial as its centerpiece

BRINGING OUT THE ETERNAL LIGHT

Restoring a beloved memorial to its position of prominence

Earlier this year, the Madison Square Park Conservancy broke ground on a landscape renovation surrounding the Eternal Light flagstaff, in partnership with the United Veterans War Council and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

Giving the monument the street-facing prominence it deserves, the renovation project removed fencing that had crowded the monument's base and created an open plaza, which now serves as a new Park entrance at 24th Street.

Designed by Lichten Craig, the new entrance plaza has been completed in time for the Veterans Day Parade commemorating the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day on November 11, 2018.

The landscape renovation included demolishing the pavers and fencing

around the plaza, and replacing and upgrading pavers and electrical infrastructure around the southern end of Madison Square Park to support the annual Veterans Day Parade production.

The renovation has achieved a number of important objectives: first and foremost, to give this historic monument—so important to the veterans community—the prominent setting it deserves; second, to showcase design principles championed by Commissioner Mitchell Silver's Parks Without Borders initiative which opens up park edges and creates inviting entrances; and third, to complete the Department of Transportation's effort, stemming from Mayor de Blasio's VisionZero program, to enhance pedestrian circulation and safety around the public plazas at the intersection of Broadway and Fifth Avenue by directly aligning the new Park entrance with the 24th Street crossing.

HISTORY

Designed by Thomas Hastings (1860-1929)—of Carrère and Hastings, architects of many notable buildings including the New York Public Library—the monument features a 30-foot-tall flagstaff support-

ed by a massive stepped pedestal of Milford pink granite, inscribed with the names of significant battle sites and tributes to those who served their country in the First World War.

The decorative bronze flagstaff base sculpted by Paul Wayland Bartlett (1865-1925) features rams' heads and garlands, it supports a five-pointed, star-shaped luminaire, continuously lit as an eternal tribute to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom.

The Eternal Light Flagstaff was dedicated on Armistice Day 1924, and is the location of the wreath-laying ceremony, which commences New York's annual Veterans Day Parade—the largest in the country.

SUPPORT

Madison Square Park Conservancy received a generous gift of \$400,000 from New York Life Insurance Company, and worked with UWVC to raise the remaining funds from private donors, the City of New York, and the New York City Council.

The Conservancy's Executive Director Keats Myer said: "When the United War Veterans Council approached us two years ago with a request that we restore and upgrade the Eternal Light Flagstaff, we quickly understood how impor-

tant this project was for the veteran community and for all Park visitors. Madison Square Park Conservancy is delighted and proud to undertake this renovation with the help of our many generous public and private supporters including New York Life, a valued partner for many years."

New York Life's Sheila Davidson said: "Madison Square Park has been important to New York Life since we moved here in 1928 and we helped spearhead its renovation around the turn of this century. For the last 15 years, Madison Square Park Conservancy has done amazing work in stewarding the Park as a verdant oasis and a world-renowned cultural destination. We are delighted to honor our veterans and support the Conservancy by playing a part in the landscape renovation, which will highlight this unique monument for all Park users."

Ryan Hegg, head of Legacy and Education at the United War Veterans Council said, "The Eternal Light is not only an important part of New York City's annual Veterans Day Parade, it is a centerpiece of how our city honors and remembers those who have served, from any era. We're proud to have been part of the effort to make the memorial more visible and accessible to our veterans and the public, and we salute all the public and private partners who made it possible."

The Eternal Light Flagstaff plaza reconstruction was made possible by New York Life, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, and the New York City Council (Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker; Hon. Dan Garodnick, Former City Councilman; Hon. Rosie Mendez, Former City Councilwoman).

Special thanks to the Delegation of the Government of Flanders to the USA, Geert De Proost, General Delegate, for their support of the groundbreaking ceremony. The Conservancy would also like to thank Con Edison, Zwicker Electric Co. and the New York Building Foundation for their support of the 2017 restoration of the illuminated star atop the Flagstaff.

The Madison Square Park Conservancy is the not-for-profit organization dedicated to keeping historic Madison Square Park a bright, beautiful and lively public park. The Conservancy raises funds that support lush and brilliant horticulture, park maintenance and park security. The Conservancy proudly offers annual Kids Fests as well as a variety of distinctive free, outdoor cultural programs for park users of all ages.

For more information on this project, please contact: info@madisonsquarepark.org



Prior to the re-landscaping, the memorial was hidden behind fencing and in the shadows



SALUTING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS This March, the United War Veterans Council organized the first annual Vietnam Veterans Day Tribute March, retracing the path of the original “Welcome Home” Parade from Brooklyn to Vietnam Veterans Plaza in 1985. Hundreds of marchers took part, including a vanguard of Vietnam Veterans who pushed the pace and brought the march home a half-hour earlier than planned!

NEVER FORGOTTEN

God Bless Those Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice in Vietnam

Michael Galea 1/5/69 • John Ward 10/6/69

John Gutekunst 3/21/70 • Steven Golsh 3/21/70 • Louis Barbaria 3/21/70

Roy Richardson 5/9/70 • Newton Clement 6/23/70

Slip off that pack. Set it down by the crooked trail. Drop your steel pot alongside. Shed those magazine-laden bandoliers away from your sweat-soaked shirt. Lay that silent weapon down and step out of the heat. Feel the soothing cool breeze right down to your soul ... and rest forever in the shade of our love, brother.



A VOICE FOR VETERANS

Medal of Honor Recipient Paul Bucha

Returning viewers tuning in to watch this year's Parade broadcast will once again be guided through the day's events by a familiar voice and face. U.S. Army Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Paul Bucha will be joining our team of announcers for the first half of the broadcast to lend his expertise on military and veteran history and issues.

Bucha was born in Washington, D.C. in 1943. Although he was an All-American swimmer in high school, he turned down several athletic scholarships in order to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point.

After graduating near the top of his class in 1965, he attended the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, receiving his MBA in 1967. In between academic years, he completed his Airborne and Ranger training.

Upon completing his studies at Stanford, Bucha was deployed to Vietnam as a Captain and commander of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, part of the 101st Airborne Division.

On March 18, 1968, Bucha and his company came across a full battalion of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops in the vicinity of Phuoc Vinh. Vastly outnumbered, the company came under heavy enemy fire and was pinned down. Bucha personally destroyed an NVA bunker and then organized the withdrawal of his unit to a more defensible position.

The battle continued overnight, during which Bucha encouraged his troops, distributed ammunition, and coordinated support fire from artillery and helicopter gunships. When medivac helicopters arrived to evacuate the wounded, Bucha stood out in the open and guid-

ed them in with flashlights. In the morning, after the NVA withdrew, he led a detail to rescue soldiers who had been cut off from the company during the fighting.

For his actions in the fighting near Phuoc Vihn, Bucha was awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for valor.

After returning to the United States, Bucha taught at West Point until resigning from the Army in 1972. In his post-military career, Bucha has enjoyed success in leadership positions in a diverse array of companies. In addition to his corporate activities, Paul Bucha has lectured and advised military leaders on honor and leadership.

Despite these diverse demands on his schedule, Bucha has always made time for his fellow veterans in New York City, and especially our New York City Veterans Day Parade.

"Veterans Day goes to teaching people the importance of recognizing and remembering those people who do serve us, year round," he says. "You see the pride in these veterans and the active duty units coming together to celebrate service to country."

"You see the mothers, the fathers, the grandfathers, the uncles and so on, showing up on the side wearing their t-shirts and their hats saying what unit they served with, or in some cases what unit their daughter or their son who is no longer with us served with, and you can see the pride in the community."

This community, of veterans, their families, and supporters thrives due to the commitment of strong and leaders and advocates. This year, as we spotlight the U.S. Army, we are again proud to have Paul "Bud" Bucha's voice speaking for our veterans.

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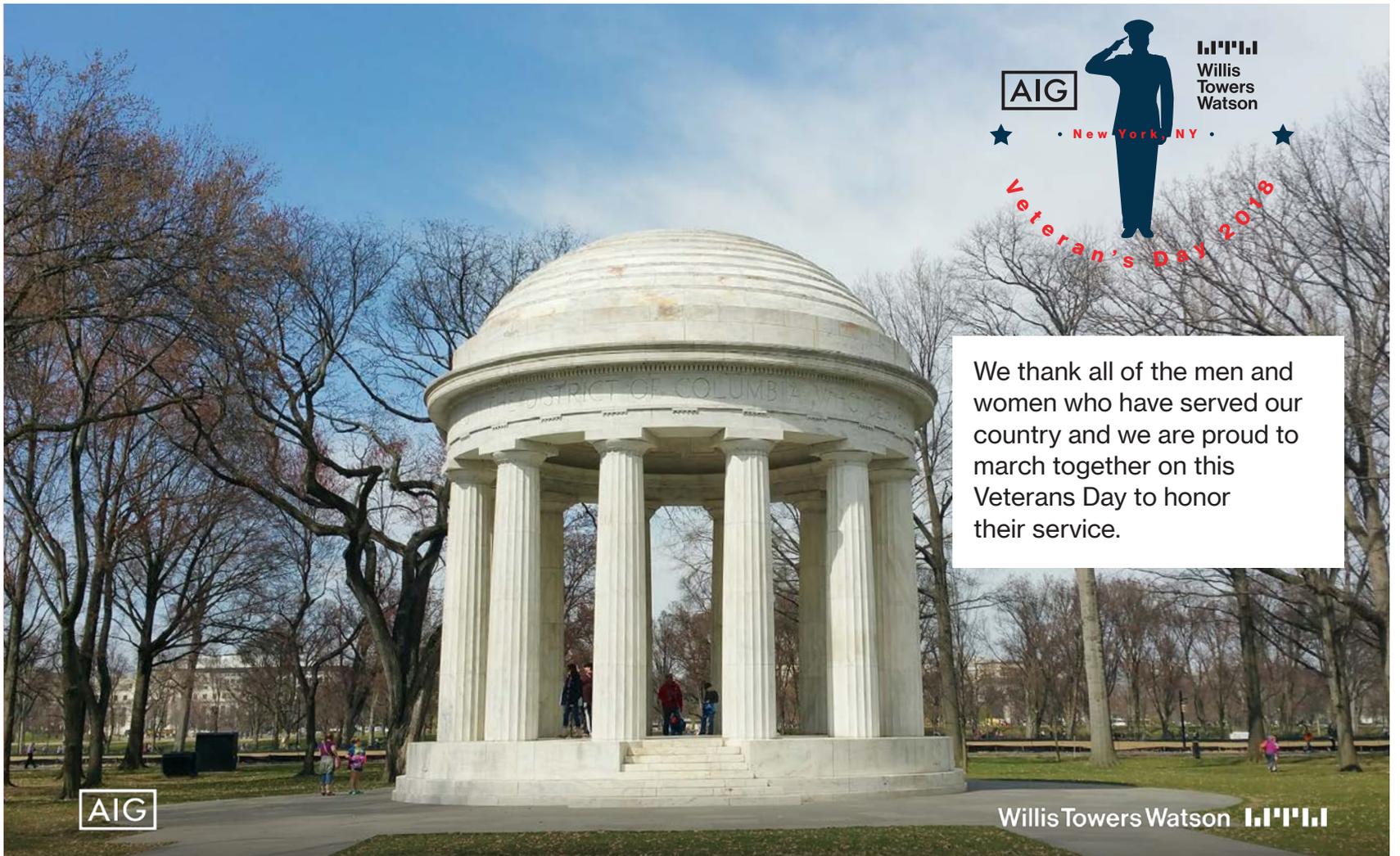
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PHOTO: Smithsonian Institution

VALOR REMEMBERED

Centennial Commission Urges Forgotten Veterans be Re-considered for Medal of Honor

Since 1991, the Department of Defense has uncovered veterans who were unjustly denied a Medal of Honor, in spite of deserving service, owing to the circumstances of their birth. As a result of systematic studies of African, Asian, Hispanic, and Jewish-American veterans in World War Two and later conflicts, 49 forgotten veterans have been awarded the nation's highest individual military honor decades after their act of heroism.

While three soldiers from World War One have likewise belatedly received the award after investigations of their individual files, no comprehensive review has been attempted for that conflict.

The United States World War One Centennial Commission is working to change that. They have partnered with faculty at New York University and Park University in Missouri to begin the requisite research via a group known as the Valor Medals Review Task Force.

"In many ways, the case for World War One is even stronger

than for World War Two" said Chris Isleib, the Commission's Director of Public Affairs. "Military segregation was abolished in 1948. That's less than three years after World War Two ended—and thirty years after the armistice of 1918. Under the law at the time, you could receive a Medal of Honor within three years of the deed."

To authorize their effort a century later, the Task Force will waive the statute of limitations by passing a bill through Congress. Isleib is optimistic that process will be completed next year.

"We're always looking for new partners, but are overwhelmed by the support we've had from Congress so far." The effort is endorsed by the nation's two largest veteran's service organizations, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and is advised by several retired generals.

Anyone seeking more information or to get involved should visit the Commission's webpage at ww1cc.org/valor.

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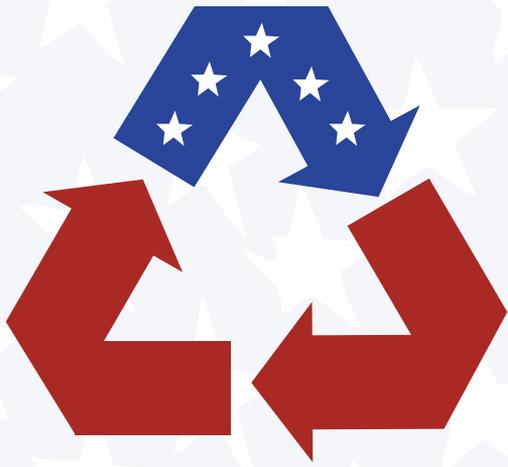
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